

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice AGAINST the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will eliminate competition, provide for controlled monopolistic pricing for consumers like me, and probably reduce my choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

Although the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and may be able to offer more programming choices, consumers will lose their choice in satellite reception. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community, but it will be a single choice - not two. Throughout the country, people who are unable to get cable will have only one option for access to their local news, weather and community information, in addition to an expensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These supposed benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will be an expensive option for consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give will be especially disadvantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to fight against this merger.

Sincerely,

Joe Duran  
164 N. Katherine Drive  
Ventura, CA 93003